

# Jonah Chapter 1 & the Providence of God

No Sanity Required | Brody Holloway | Snowbird Outfitters 2023

Read Jonah chapter 1 and then do a 10 minute walk-through

First act of God's Providence seen in this chapter is here in verse two. The Lord prepares a message of judgment but of salvation for a pagan people, and he then commissions a man who he knows will be disobedient to deliver the message, to deliver the message. God's providence is the driving power behind all salvation and deliverance from sin. He has the power to save, has finished the Gospel that saves, and gives us a future hope and promise of that salvation.

Second act of God's Providence is seen in Verse 4. Yahweh hurls a great storm upon the sea. (I love the word "hurls"). The Lord can literally control the weather. This should be seen as a kindness and mercy of the Lord. Here's the irony. Jonah is sleeping and the pagan sea Captain awakens him and pleads with him to cry out to his God. Frank Paige says this, "perhaps the captain did recognize the possibility that Jonah's God, Yahweh, might be the initiator of the storm and, because he was being ignored by Jonah slumbering, needed to be consulted also." Observation: Something that stands out to me is the contrast between the way these unbelievers respond to Yahweh and the way Jonah has responded. I think we need to be reminded as a sidenote here, that our unbelieving friends neighbors and coworkers are paying attention. Opportunities will arrive in our lives and the natural flow of day-to-day life. We need to be ready to give an answer for the hose that is in us. Jonah gives that answer as we're getting ready to see

Third act of God's Providence is seen in the casting of the lots. Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD." One of the principles of scripture that is rarely talked about but that I love is when God works through the pagan or secular channels that unbelievers use. God uses a witchcraft/voodoo practice to point the men to Jonah, which ultimately points them to the Lord, resulting in the fourth act of providence.

The fourth act of providence, the men confess the sovereignty and might of Yahweh. And in their declaration a group of pagan and hardened sailors (never heard the term "cuss like a sailor") are brought to confession of Yahweh as Lord and God. These men's lives are changed by the power of God's saving and providential grace! Let's re-read verse 14. If you've ever questioned or lost hope that God could change the heart of someone and draw them to himself by revealing his power and mocked and saving grace then find hope in this verse, and in the declaration of these men. And in their declaration we see repentance over sin, and confession of the saving power of the Lord.

The fifth and final act of providence. The Lord prepares the fish to swallow Jonah. Let's pause for a minute and imagine what these men might've seen. Elaborate here. Use the imagination.

### Providence / Sovereignty

Definition: God is continually involved with all created things in a personal and sustaining way, and will ultimately fulfill all of his purposes.

Three categories (aspects) of God's providence:

Preservation: God keeps all things he created in existence.

Hebrews 1:3

Colossians 1:17

Job 34:14

Concurrence: God cooperates with the things he has created.

Inanimate things like wind and rain and snow.

Animals

Events that seem random. Proverbs 16:33

Things that men or creatures do of their own will and volition but that God is engaging with.

(Growing crops, drilling a well etc.)

Kings governments and nations. Job 12:23

Every aspect of our lives. The Psalmist writes "what is man that you are mindful of him". (Jer 1:5; Prov 20:24; Psalm 139:16)

Under this heading and subject we could talk for days. But I just want to scratch the surface and get you thinking and studying.

Governance: This might clear some questions up from the first two. This is the idea that God is working all things, ultimately according to his plan and the distinctions of his will.

Romans 11:36

Jude 24-25

1 Corinthians 15:57

Eph. 1:11

As Christians we can lean into the providence of God knowing that ultimately it was through his providence that he saved us. But also that one day, ultimately God will bring all things to justice and peace.

Let's hope in the future we have in a God who has the power to save even over, above, and against man's greatest rebellions. We can receive mercy and peace rather than judgment if you would just put our trust in the sovereign and saving Lord Jesus.